Schemes for NRI Deposits

*268. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount outstanding under various deposits scheme since 1997;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to float some more scheme for NRI deposits; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The details of Non- resident deposits for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Scheme	Deposit balances as at end of March		
	1997	1998	1999
NRE	16776	22495	25921
NRNR	19074	24199	27364
FCNR(B) (US$Mn)	7890	8532	8055

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

National Culture Fund

*269. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the National Culture Fund launched by the Ministry of Culture some time ago;

(b) how far it has met the purpose for which it was set up; and

(c) the details of specific assistance provided to the needy artists, writers and others since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) In recent months the National Culture Fund has acquired momentum. MOUs have

been entered into with Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath Trust, Bangalore, Jnana Pravaha Trust, Varanasi, Durgapur Children's Academi Durgapur and Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai. Work has commenced on restoration of water channels in Humayun's Tomb Complex, New Delhi and work at Shaniwarwada, Pune is nearing completion.

(c) The Fund is not intended to duplicate the schemes of the Department which include financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts, etc. and such other walks of life and their dependents who may be in indigent circumstances. It is intended to motivate private, public partnership for conceptualization and implementation of projects for conservation and preservation of the rich cultural heritage of the country.

Development of Sindhudurg as a tourist place

*270. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 587 given in the Rajya Sabha on February 29, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop Konkan region specially Sindhudurg District as a place of tourist attraction; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Government of Maharashtra have prioritised the following projects for central financial assistance for Rs. 217.60 lakhs during the current financial year for the development of tourism in Sindhudurg District.

(i) Construction of Konkani huts at Katawneshwar in Sindhudurg

(ii) Construction of Konkani huts at Deobag in Sindhudurg

(iii) Provision of Konkan Boat House in Sindhudurg

(iv) Floating Restaurant on a traditional boat for Sindhudurg

(v) Wayside amenities at Kharepatan, Distt Sindhudurg

(vi) Sindhudurg Utsav, Konkan Division.